

tax subsidies that shipped jobs offshore. Unfortunately, not one Republican joined us in eliminating that crazy tax subsidy. That money is now back to help deal with the deficit.

Labor policies, education—another full night can be taken on just education. We talked a little bit about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, the STEM programs. But it's much, much more. It's the reeducation of our workforce. Intellectual property, research, how you protect that, critically important. We did have a good discussion about infrastructure.

This is our agenda. This is the American agenda. This is the agenda about the future. And it is so much an important part of dealing with the deficit. There is not an economist out there that tells us we can actually deal with the deficit unless we get people back to work. And the people that we want to get back to work is American middle class. The American middle class needs to be rebuilt along with our manufacturing base, and we can do it with the set of policies that we're putting forth here.

We ask for our Republican colleagues to join us on these smart pieces of legislation.

Mr. CICILLINE, this is your night. You've led us in this. I yield back my remaining time for your closure.

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentleman from California for your leadership on this and your participation tonight. I thank the gentleladies from Alabama and from Hawaii and from Texas for joining us as well.

I'll just end by saying you're right. Rhode Island was really the birthplace of the industrial revolution. And when you look at the role manufacturing played in the early days of our country's economy of the industrial age, Rhode Island played a really important role; and from Woonsocket to Providence to Newport to Pawtucket, we have examples of great manufacturing facilities. And what we need to do is put in place the tools and the policies that can rebuild that strength—and not only in Rhode Island but all across this country—that takes advantage of the great American ingenuity, of the great American innovation and the great American entrepreneurship to make the best products to solve the new challenges of the 21st century, to build products and to sell them all over the world, to create jobs as we sell American-made products all across the world.

And we can do it. We have the best workers. We make the best products. What we need are policies at the national level that recognize this is a key part to rebuilding our economy, a key part to the American—the rebuilding of the American economy, and understanding that we can make things again in this country. And by doing so, we can make sure that American families make it again in America.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I yield back the balance of my time.

AMERICA'S DEBT CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUFFY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY) is recognized for 23 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Mrs. ROBY. We face a budget crisis in this country. America is broke. Without bold action, our budget situation will get worse, not better. We also face a severe economic recession. The current national unemployment rate is 9.0 percent, and it has been as high as 10.1 percent back in April of 2009.

With so many Americans out of work, the Federal Government should be doing everything in its power to encourage economic growth—not discourage it.

Cutting spending is critical to creating a pro-growth environment. Cutting spending is essential to free market job creation. House Republicans are the only group in Washington showing leadership on this issue. We have voted repeatedly to cut spending in the short term, and we have passed a budget that would reduce spending by \$6.2 trillion over 10 years.

By contrast, it has been more than 750 days since Senate Democrats have even passed a budget. Recently, Senator REID said: "There's no need to have a Democratic budget, in my opinion. It would be foolish for us to do a budget at this stage."

That is a breathtaking statement for two important reasons: First, the Senate is required by law under the Congressional Budget Act to pass a budget. Second, working families all across America live within their means every single day by following a family budget. It's simple. They don't spend what they don't have. So I ask: Why shouldn't Democrats in the Senate live by the same rule?

Now the White House is asking us to raise the debt limit and Secretary Geithner wrote, "Never in our history has Congress failed to increase the debt limit when necessary." The White House wants a clean increase in the debt limit. That means they want Congress to approve more debt without cutting back on any spending. That is a failed policy.

The vote we took tonight is a clear indicator that House Republicans reject that approach. Our message is clear. We will not vote to raise the debt limit without significant reforms to change the culture of spending in Washington. If the White House wants us to consider raising the debt limit, they should be at the table proposing

significant reforms that yield trillions, not billions, in savings to the American people. So far, that has not happened.

□ 2140

Tomorrow, the President has invited House Republicans to the White House to discuss the debt ceiling. His request for a clean increase in the debt limit was rejected tonight. I hope that tomorrow the President will offer serious proposals to cure Washington's addiction to spending. No lip service. No gimmicks. No smoke and mirrors. The American people don't want more political posturing. Real spending cuts. A true commitment to that is what will spur job creation and get our economy back on track.

I now yield to the gentleman from Colorado for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. GARDNER. I thank the gentlelady from Alabama for her leadership on this issue, and the time tonight to be able to talk about an issue that's very important to my constituents in Colorado, the Fourth Congressional District, and around this country. There hasn't been a town meeting gone by where somebody hasn't stood up and said, "Congressman GARDNER, what do you think about the debt ceiling? What's going to happen to this country? What happens if we continue to spend the kind of money that this Congress, this Nation has seen over the past decade?"

As we turn our focus and continue to focus on jobs and growing our economy, the only way that this Nation is going to be able to create long-term jobs and job growth is if we do everything we can to make sure we are cutting spending and reducing the size of government.

In 2006, President Obama talked about a failure of leadership, a failure of leadership to increase the debt ceiling, and that he would vote against it. He did vote against it because he believed to continue to kick the can down the road, to continue to spend money without a plan to reduce our debt, address the deficit, he believed was failure of leadership.

Tomorrow we have an opportunity to visit the President at the White House. And I hope we hear from him why he believed that in 2006 an \$8.4 trillion debt was too much, why it was a failure of leadership to go beyond \$8.4 trillion in debt. Because the President is now asking us to go beyond \$14 trillion in debt, to pass a debt ceiling that would allow Congress to spend even trillions more than the \$14 trillion debt that we have today. The people in my district are concerned that there is no stop sign in place for the fiscal recklessness that this Nation has seen. The failure of leadership continues from one Congress to another without a plan in place.

I have had the opportunities over the past several years to attend high school financial literacy classes, where

we're teaching our 8th-, 9th-, 10th-, 11th-, 12th-graders what it means to balance a checkbook, what it means to make sure that they are keeping their records straight. Unfortunately, this Congress has failed to learn those same lessons that our high school students are being taught in Colorado, what it means to be able to say "no" to spending, what it means to be able to say "no" to spending money that we don't have.

Mr. Speaker, I can't think of anything more pressing facing this country at the moment than to make sure we send a strong message to the rest of this country that we have learned a lesson, that we will create jobs in this Nation, and we will do it because we said enough is enough when it comes to reckless spending. That we have put in place policies that will make sure we stop the runaway debt and deficit.

The House took a stand today. We drew a line in the sand with a vote 97-318 that this House rejected the President's request to increase the debt ceiling.

I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. DOLD. I appreciate that. I appreciate the gentleman yielding. It is indeed an honor to be down on the floor with you talking about something that is certainly near and dear to my heart, and that's jobs. That's going to be reining in the out of control debt that we've got going on in our country today. The thing that I think is important that my colleague pointed out, and something that I want to make sure we emphasize is this is a Washington problem.

Mr. Speaker, this has been going on on both sides of the aisle for a long time. Republicans had deficit spending. The Democrats' answer was to spend more. It's about time that we stand up and say, "Enough is enough." Back in 2006, the President actually said, "Leadership means that the buck stops here. Instead, Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and grandchildren. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. America and Americans deserve better."

Well, I couldn't agree more. We cannot continue to shift this burden onto our children and grandchildren. A \$14 trillion debt. I went down, actually, today and saw the debt auction. In just a matter of minutes, we saw them in essence auction off another \$50 billion of U.S. Treasuries. Most of that was auctioned off in under 2 minutes. We cannot continue to spend the amount of money that we are spending and still expect that we are going to provide the American dream for our children and grandchildren.

To me, I think that's the American compact that those I think on both sides of the aisle can agree upon; that we here in the Congress have to step up and provide leadership so that our children and grandchildren will have opportunities greater than the ones that

you and I know today. Unfortunately, I fear that if we continue down the path that we go down, that we are heading down right now, we may be the first generation of Americans that leave our country actually worse.

We are looking for leadership. I am here on the floor reaching out and telling the President that we want to see a plan. Not that we want to reject a plan; we want to see a plan. Tell us why we need to raise the debt ceiling. Tell us what spending constraints are going to be put in place in Washington.

Both sides of the aisle need to just basically change the way that we're doing things so that we can provide some fiscal discipline for future generations. When I look at it, and I know we have got some other small business men that are up here with me today, I look at it like we've just purchased a small business. Well, actually it's a big business in the United States of America. It's also the greatest business on the face of the Earth. It has some debt. We know we are obligated to pay that debt. But we also know that we have to restructure how the company, in essence the United States of America, is taking on that debt. And until we are prepared to do that, we can't expect that we're just going to continue to run the organization, the company, the United States of America, the same way it's been run.

There is plenty of blame to go around. The time for leadership is now. And I welcome the opportunity to sit down with those colleagues on the other side of the aisle to come up with a solution so we can all march forward together and solve the big problems of our time.

With that, I will yield at least temporarily to my friend from New York.

Mr. REED. I appreciate the gentleman yielding, but I believe the gentlelady from Alabama controls the time.

Mrs. ROBY. Thank you.

I yield to the gentleman from New York as much time as he would like to consume, but we do have to be done in about 10 minutes.

Mr. REED. I appreciate that. I appreciate the gentlelady yielding. And I appreciate joining my colleagues, fellow freshman members of the Republican class who have come here to Washington, D.C., with the same philosophy that I believe I bring to the table. And that is exactly the point that we have been articulating here tonight. We need to get our fiscal house in order.

So many people ask me why is that so critical to our future? And when I go to my town hall meetings, and I go and talk to my constituents back in New York, I tell them there are two reasons. One, we all know that if you run a business at the debt levels that we run this government at, it will go bankrupt. And we are talking about the bankruptcy of America. That is not acceptable to me. It's not acceptable to my colleagues here tonight. And we're going to work day in and day out to prevent that.

But second, and more in the short term, we need to get our fiscal house in order so that we send a message to all of the world markets that the American market is alive and well. And you can invest your capital, you can invest your millions of dollars back here in America and put people back to work. It's not about creating jobs that are government jobs. It's about creating wealth. It is about creating a private sector that is strong, that is putting people to work day in and day out, putting food on their tables, feeding their families, providing for their education, and giving that way of life that we here have enjoyed to their children, to our grandchildren, and to generations that have not even seen the face of the Earth.

So for those two reasons, it is time that we honor Senator Barack Obama's quote that we need to stop shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and grandchildren. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better. I call on the President to put forth a plan to deal with this problem once and for all.

□ 2150

Mrs. ROBY. I thank the gentleman.

I yield to the gentleman from Illinois for such time as he may consume.

Mr. SCHILLING. I would like to thank the gentlelady from Alabama for giving me the opportunity to speak here tonight.

As a small businessman and a new Member of Congress, I believe that the people did not send us here to raise the debt limit without a clear path to fix this huge mess that we have. It's an honor to represent the people of the 17th District in Illinois. It's with great honor, of course, that even greater expectations come.

Future generations are depending upon us to get it right. You know, they didn't send us here to bury our heads in the sand and continue this path that we have been going on.

As one of the new 87 freshmen who was sent here to deliver a message from America that enough is enough, when it comes to the failed policies of the past, I will continue to persuade my colleagues that we must get this under control. We reached the statutory debt limit on May 16 of 2011. Secretary Geithner has said we have enough borrowing to get us through August 2 of 2011. After that, if the debt ceiling is not raised, then America will default on its obligations.

Secretary Geithner has said that it would be insane not to raise the debt limit. I believe the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. The debt limit has been raised 51 times since 1978. Today we are facing a crushing debt of more than \$14 trillion. The insanity must stop here.

Mrs. ROBY. I thank the gentleman.

I now yield to the gentleman from Arkansas as much time as he may consume.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Thank you very much. I am glad to be able to join you here on the floor tonight to ultimately talk about jobs. I have heard some folks mention debt and some other issues, but it all relates to jobs.

I hear folks from the other side of the aisle say, when are you going to have a jobs bill? And what I try to convey to my constituents and to my colleagues here is that when we are talking about the debt and getting our spending under control, we are talking about jobs.

This country has not seen job loss like we will see if we have a debt crisis. And if we want to be the country like many of us grew up in, a country that is innovative and leads the world in technology and advancement, then we have to deal with our crushing debt.

What has been striking on the issue of the debt here tonight is I have been listening to colleagues from the other side of the aisle and I have heard about all these plans. I have heard about plans to pay down the debt, plans to deal with the deficit. I have heard about their Medicare plan.

The bottom line is, they don't have a plan. This President, in the Senate controlled by Senator REID, they don't have a plan. They don't have a plan for Medicare, they don't have a plan in the form of a budget, they don't have a plan to get the debt under control, they don't have a plan. Their only plan is to let the House lead.

They will let us be bold while they are politically timid. They have no plan. It would be easy to have a debate between our plan and their plan, but they don't have a plan.

So we are left with a situation, for example, on Medicare, something that we want to preserve, something that is a big driver of our debt. On the issue of Medicare, the other side of the aisle likes to compare our plan, which reforms and saves Medicare, they like to compare our plan to the current plan.

Well, that's fiscal fantasy, folks. Why? Because the current plan goes away. The status quo goes bankrupt. So the idea that they can adopt the current plan status quo as their plan is nonsense; it's nonsense. We see it with Medicare; we see it with the debt.

I, like my colleagues here, simply call on the Democrats and the President to propose something, something that we can discuss, something that addresses our problems. I can tell you, I can only speak for me and my constituents, but unless we see some serious structural changes to the spending, the out-of-control spending in this town, the "no" that I voted on raising the debt limit tonight will be the same "no" over and over again until this President and the Senate get their act together and give us a real plan.

Mrs. ROBY. I thank the gentleman.

I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. DOLD. I appreciate the gentlelady for yielding.

I was just struck by something that the gentleman from Arkansas said. It is about jobs and that I think is something that we focused on here this evening, but there are 29 million small businesses in our Nation. And the thing that I hear from small businesses and businesses all around my district is the uncertainty. Uncertainty out there is causing, in essence, paralyzing businesses and preventing them from moving forward. If we can create an environment here in Washington that allows half of those companies to create a single job, think about the job growth we will have then.

I am just wondering if the gentlemen from Arkansas or from Colorado or the gentlelady from Alabama has heard some of the same things back in their districts about uncertainty.

Mrs. ROBY. Absolutely. You know, everywhere we go we hear about this job-killing legislation that is keeping small business owners, even those that have the ability to create jobs, fearful to do so because they don't know which regulation they are going to be hit from next, what legislation we are going to pass to find out what's in it is coming their way. So I hear it all the time. It is stifling to our economy.

We need to create, we need to make sure that we are creating an environment so that the private sector can create the jobs and not rely on the government.

I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. You make a good point. I tell you, the stark contrast between what we are talking about here and from what I hear on the other side of the aisle is this: our colleagues, our Democrat colleagues talk about the government creating jobs. They say we need to create jobs.

I understand, and I think we understand that the private sector creates jobs. Small businesses create jobs. Individuals create jobs. People pursuing their dreams and exercising economic freedom, that's who creates jobs.

It's our job to help create an environment where individuals and businesses can flourish and continue to lead the world. It is not the government's job to create jobs. We are here to create an environment for businesses and individuals and small businesses so they can flourish.

Mrs. ROBY. I will now yield to the gentleman from New York, and then we're going to wrap this up.

Mr. REED. I thank the gentlelady from Alabama.

I was struck by something my colleague from Arkansas said about a plan. Let's be clear about the proposed plans that have been allegedly floated by our President up to this date and what we voted on today.

You know, we get knocked a lot for not engaging in a bipartisan practice, but let's be clear what the record showed and in this Chamber today and in the Senate last week. President Obama put forth and requested a clean

debt ceiling, an unconditional debt ceiling, just raise it \$2 trillion.

Bipartisan support tonight rejected that proposal. That's the status quo proposal that we can no longer afford. Last week, President Obama's budget, 97-0 in the Senate, was soundly rejected. I believe President Obama's quote from 2006 is completely accurate. His words predicted exactly where he is at. America has a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better.

Mrs. ROBY. Thank you so much to all of my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that allowing the Federal Government to take on more debt without cutting up our credit cards is irresponsible.

I am Margaret and George's mom, and I know you represent families here tonight. We all have a responsibility, to my children, to your children, to future generations of this country to leave this country better off than the way we found it. It all starts with cutting spending and getting our economy back on track.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of account of serving as pallbearer for State Representative David Umphlett.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, June 1, 2011, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1713. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Aluminum tris(O-ethylphosphonate), Butylate, Chlorethoxyfos, Clethodim, et al.; Tolerance Actions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0490; FRL-8869-6] received April 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1714. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Carbon Dioxide; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-1077; FRL-0873-1] received May 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1715. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clothianidin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0771; FRL-8873-3]